

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00588 121730Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /061 W
-----130041 122156Z /64
R 121726Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7519
ALL USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MX
SUBJECT: DETENTE IN THE MEXICAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

REF: MEXICO 21542, DEC 77

1. REFTEL REPORTED EFFORT BY RODOLFO GONZALEZ GUEVARA, HEAD OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, TO REMOVE PRI DEPUTY VICTOR MANZANILLA SCHAFFER FROM HIS POSITION ON THE GRAN COMISION AND HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR DISSENTING FROM THE PRI PARTY LINE. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF NEGATIVE PRESS REACTION TO GONZALEZ' ACTION, MANZANILLA HAS RECEIVED A "STAY OF EXECUTION".

2. THE NEGATIVE PRESS REACTION REVEALED THAT GONZALEZ DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE MANZANILLA FROM EITHER POSITION. HE CAN ONLY BE REMOVED FROM THE GRAN COMISION BY THE YUCATAN DELEGATION THAT NOMINATED HIM, AND FROM HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BY THE GRAN COMISION. IT IS UNLIKELY ANYTHING WILL BE DONE UNTIL THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RECONVENES IN SEPTEMBER. AT THAT TIME THE CHAMBER WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT MANZANILLA'S RESIGNATION, WHICH HE CONTINUES TO SAY WAS REQUESTED BY
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 00588 121730Z

GONZALEZ GUEVARA. HOWEVER, GONZALEZ NOW DENIES THAT HE REQUESTED MANZANILLA'S RESIGNATION. IN THE MEANTIME MANZANILLA REMAINS ACTIVE ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN ARRANGING INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS WITH POLAND AND FINLAND.

3. COMMENT: THE PASSAGE OF TIME MAY SERVE TO VINDICATE

MANZANILLA AND CALL IN TO QUESTION GONZALEZ' ABILITY TO
MANAGE WHAT PROMISES TO BE A MORE OPEN AND DIVERSE
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. ALTHOUGH THE INCREASED OPPOSITION IN
THE CHAMBER WILL NOT BECOME A REALITY UNTIL THE NEXT
ELECTIONS IN 1979, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT EVEN THE PRESENT
DEPUTIES ARE BEGINNING TO SENSE THAT THE WINDS OF CHANGE
WILL BE BLOWING. THE ALTERED COMPOSITION LIKELY TO OCCUR
UNDER POLITICAL REFORM WILL REQUIRE A PARTY LEADER WHO CAN
SKILLFULLY MANAGE THE PRI DEPUTIES AS WELL AS MANIPULATE
THE OPPOSITION. LOPEZ PORILLO MAY FIND IT NECESSARY TO
REPLACE GONZALEZ WITH SOMEONE MORE AKIN TO THE BULL-
FIGHTER THAN THE BULL. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO00588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780019-0139
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780172/aaaacito.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d5348be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 21542
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3788449
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DETENTE IN THE MEXICAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
TAGS: PINT, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d5348be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014